

3723

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*Practice limited to
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 6, 2003

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MAR 10 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

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INTERNET ADDRESS:

MIKEM@SKGF.COM

Art Unit 3723

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/986,751; Filed: November 9, 2001
For: **Apparatuses and Methods for Cleaning Test Probes**
Inventor: Gary W. Grube
Our Ref: 2026.0010000/MVM/GSB

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

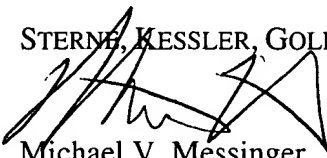
1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Forms PTO-1449 (2 pages citing 19 documents);
3. Copies of the 19 cited documents; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Michael V. Messinger
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,575

MVM/GSB:krd

Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:103554.1



#12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gary W. Grube

Appl. No. 09/986,751

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: **Apparatuses and Methods for
Cleaning Test Probes**

Confirmation No. 5968

Art Unit: 3723

Examiner: Rose, Robert

Atty. Docket: 2026.0010000/MVM/GSB

Information Disclosure Statement**RECEIVED**

MAR 10 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97((b)). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to

the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form [OR] Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

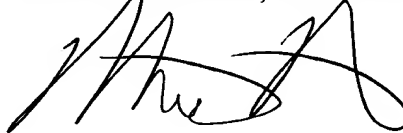
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

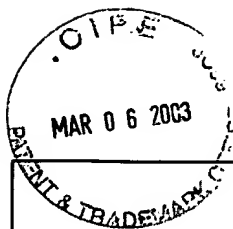
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Date: 3/6/03

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FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTATTY. DOCKET NO.
2026.0010000APPLICATION NO.
09/986,751APPLICANT
Gary W. GrubeFILING DATE
November 9, 2001GROUP
2862**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | FILING DATE |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------|---------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-------------|
| | AA1 | 4,757,255 | 7/1988 | Margozzi | 324 | 158F | 3/3/86 |
| | AB1 | 4,954,774 | 9/1990 | Binet | 324 | 158F | 6/13/89 |
| | AC1 | 4,778,326 | 10/1998 | Althouse et al. | 414 | 786 | 5/24/83 |
| | AD1 | 5,198,752 | 9/1993 | Miyata et al. | 324 | 158F | 7/31/91 |
| | AE1 | 5,198,753 | 3/1993 | Hamburgen | 324 | 158F | 6/29/90 |
| | AF1 | 5,568,054 | 10/1996 | Iino et al. | 324 | 760 | 5/19/95 |
| | AG1 | 5,690,749 | 11/1997 | Lee | 134 | 6 | 3/18/96 |
| | AH1 | 5,834,946 | 11/1998 | Albrow et al. | 324 | 760 | 10/30/97 |
| | AI1 | 6,056,627 | 5/2000 | Mizuta | 451 | 59 | 3/13/98 |
| | AJ1 | 6,140,616 | 10/2000 | Andberg | 219 | 444,1 | 9/25/98 |
| | AK1 | 6,184,053 B1 | 2/2001 | Eldridge et al. | 438 | 52 | 5/6/97 |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | TRANSLATION |
|---------------------|-----|--------------------|--------|---------|-------|---------------|-------------|
| | AL1 | WO 00/33089 | 6/2000 | WIPO | | | Yes No |
| | AM1 | WO 95/14314 | 5/1995 | WIPO | | | Yes No |
| | AN1 | WO 96/17378 | 6/1996 | WIPO | | | Yes No |
| | AO1 | | | | | | Yes No |
| | AP1 | | | | | | Yes No |

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OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

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| | AR | <u>1</u> | |
| | AS | <u>1</u> | |
| | AT | <u>1</u> | |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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| FORM PTO-1449 <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2026.0010000 | APPLICATION NO. 09/986,751 |
| | APPLICANT Gary W. Grube | |
| | FILING DATE November 9, 2001 | GROUP 2862 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|---------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | FILING DATE |
| | AA2 | 5,476,211 | 12/1995 | Khandros | 228 | 180.5 | 11/16/93 |
| | AB2 | 5,917,707 | 6/1999 | Khandros et al. | 361 | 776 | 11/15/94 |
| | AC2 | 6,110,823 | 8/2000 | Eldridge et al. | 438 | 660 | 6/3/98 |
| | AD2 | 6,255,126 B1 | 7/2001 | Mathieu et al. | 438 | 15 | 12/2/98 |
| | AE2 | 6,169,409 B1 | 1/2001 | Amemiya | 324 | 754 | 5/4/98 |
| | AF2 | | | | | | |
| | AG2 | | | | | | |
| | AH2 | | | | | | |
| | AI2 | | | | | | |
| | AJ2 | | | | | | |
| | AK2 | | | | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------|------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION |
| | AL2 | | | | | | Yes No |
| | AM2 | | | | | | Yes No |
| | AN2 | | | | | | Yes No |
| | AO2 | | | | | | Yes No |
| | AP2 | | | | | | Yes No |

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| | AT | 2 | |

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